Testimony: H-8174, H-8175
SUPPORT for Medicaid Coverage for Midwives Bill
SUPPORT for Medicaid Coverage for Lactation Counselors Bill
May 5th, 2026

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Eliza Sirpenski and I am the Administrative Policy Lead at The Womxn Project, a Rhode Island-based nonprofit that focuses on bodily freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, and government transparency.

I am writing on behalf of The Womxn Project in **strong support** of H-8174, the Medicaid Coverage for Midwives bill, and H-8175, the Medicaid Coverage for Lactation Counselors Bill.

The purpose of H-8174 is to require that Medicaid covers services from Certified Professional Midwives. The purpose of H-8175 is to require that Medicaid covers services from Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors.

Both of these bills are incredibly important because they make services that many pregnant people and parents need more accessible. Requiring Medicaid to cover services from Midwives and Lactation Counselors will give women more autonomy and agency when it comes to the decisions they make during and after pregnancy. These bills will give pregnant people and new parents more options and could significantly improve their pregnancy, labor, and breastfeeding experiences.

I urge the committee to pass these bills and ensure that Medicaid patients have access to these often necessary services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Eliza Sirpenski
Administrative Policy Lead, The Womxn Project